

Dear Sirs and Madams, I have studied the proposal for the so-called Broadcast Flag Mandate - FCC02-231 - and am horrified.

This ruling would put digital video technology in the hands of a very small group of controlling interests, and would effectively ban the use of computer software for receiving and viewing digital content.

I am very unhappy with the current trend toward legislating hardware-based solutions to copyright and patent issues. In my view, it is analogous to dictating the brand of lock I may or must use on my doors, and telling me I must not go to X Avenue, because there is a possibility that I might break the law there. If there were no other reasons to refrain from controlling the use, or manner of use, of existing technology, the futility of keeping such regulation abreast of current technology should be reason enough to seek other solutions.

Finally, I believe it is past time to stop allowing the recorded entertainment industry, in the form of the MPAA and RIAA, to buy or bully the enactment of legislation protecting their profits. These lobbies have been responsible for regulations and legislation in the past few years that is blatantly against the best interest of the American consumer, and in some cases flatly unconstitutional.

I object, most strenuously.

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